**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

**Board Meeting – October 3, 2022**

**Zoom Video and Phone Conference**

The fortieth board meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization (UMRR-ILO) was called to order by Vice-Chair Nancy Porter (IA Iowa City) on October 3, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

**Board members attending the meeting in addition to the Vice-Chair:**  Gretchen Sabel (MN-ABC), Lonnie McCauley (MN Coon Rapids), Kay Slama (MN Willmar), Carolyn Mahlum-Jenkins (WI La Crosse), Shawn Stacey- Choinard (IL Rockford,) Paula, Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Lee Ekstrom (IL McHenry County), Catheryn Franczyk (IL Wheaton ), Mary Ellen Miller IA Des Moines), Sue Wilson (IA Dubuque),Tamara Prenosil (IA Dubuque)

**Approval of Minutes**

L. Ekstrom moved and K. Slama seconded that the minutes of moved and S. Stacy-Choinard seconded that the minutes from August 1, 2022 be approved. Motion carried.

**Financial Report:**

C. Franczyk, treasurer, sent the Treasurer’s Report for August and September 2022 as well as the Revenues & Expenses with Budget vs Actuals to Board members prior to this meeting.

Revenues: August/September 2022: $1,990

* $775.00 – 2022-2023 Membership dues
* $1,215 - Donations (unrestricted) includes $1,000 from Jo Davies, IL LWV chapter
* $90.00 - Network for Good donation (Unrestricted)

Expenses: August/September $1,567.78

* $106.00 P.O. Box 6-month renewal
* $1.78 – PayPal fees
* $1,460.00 Convention/Conference

Bank Balance as of September 30, 2022: $11,706.93 (includes Judy Beck Memorial Fund of $300. Includes ERC Restricted Grant II balance $166.82)

There are 33 Chapters that have paid dues as of 9-30-2022. L. McCauley, L. Ekstrom, M. Ploesser, and T. Prenosil will call their respective state chapters that have not yet paid the $25 dues. St. Louis also paid Chapter dues. There may be interest from the State of Missouri to join the UMRR-ILO which would require a change in UMRR-ILO bylaws, Wisconsin incorporation amendment, LWVUS charter and IRS notification.

C. Franczyk moved $5000 into a savings account with Dupaco since that credit union does not give interest on checking accounts.

C. Franczyk expressed appreciation for J. McGinley’s help with explaining UMRR-ILO financial procedures.

The financial report was accepted for future audit.

**Action Committee Report:**

K.Slama submitted the following report: We held both August and September meetings since the last Board meeting. We voted to sign on to two letters recommended by MEP.  At the August meeting we voted to sign on to a letter directing the MN Legacy funds appropriately, but it appears that it did not reach MEP due to misunderstanding about which committee member would report to MEP.  By email we voted to sign onto a letter advocating for avoiding systemic herbicides such as neonicotinoids on state lands, and that sign-on was completed.

Clean Water for All collaboration:  Working on the process of getting LWVUS agreement updated.

The Action Committee meets regularly on the fourth Monday at 4:00 pm.

**Report from the Iowa Water Conference 2022 on September 27 -28 in Dubuque:**

M. Miller reported there were over 200 attendees and about 30 exhibits. The pre-conference tour of Dyersville showcased flood mitigation efforts and strategies to enhance water amenities to make Dyersville a tourist destination to build upon the *Field of Dreams* popularity. M. Miller made use of networking opportunities and invited one Iowa legislator to attend her local environmental advocacy group’s discussion of the carbon pipeline.

T. Prenosil’s take away included the remark from Matt Russell, the Wednesday morning keynote, who said there is nine times more money for the 2023 Farm Bill than in 2018. Chris Jones, (Hydro science and Engineering at the University of Iowa) discussed a proposed water quality index for Iowa’s streams (testing e-coli, nitrogen, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity). The trout streams in northeast Iowa had the best water quality. Actually, water quality in the upper Mississippi came out well using these metrics. Another presenter said long term trends show an overall slight decrease in pollution in streams generally due to more efficient fertilizer delivery.

The upper Mississippi River Region ILO had a display table. Other advocacy groups with tables included the Iowa Environmental Council, Isaac Walton League, and Nature Conservancy. G. Sabel developed the content and visuals for the UMRR-ILO trifold display. T. Prenosil will make a list of handouts and brochures on the UMRR-ILO table at this conference. T. Prenosil moved and G. Sabel seconded that three more display tables (booths) be purchased for use in Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The funds to be used will be the $300 in the Judy Beck Memorial Fund which was set aside for advocacy. Motion carried.

**New Member Orientation:**

S. Stacey- Choinard has developed a draft of possible items to include in an orientation packet, M. Miller and T. Prenosil will help continue this project.

**MRN Update:**

N. Porter, MRN delegate will attend the MRN annual convention in New Orleans on October 19 and 20.

M. Miller will send an update on the Iowa Big Ideas Conference.

Bill Crews has history of the UMBRA (Upper Mississippi River Basin Association). From the website:

The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) is the Governor-established forum for interstate water resource planning and management on the Upper Mississippi River, representing its member states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.  Through their steady, 40-year commitment to UMRBA, the states have worked diligently with federal partners and stakeholders to advance multi-use management of the river, facilitating and fostering cooperative planning and coordinated management of the Upper Mississippi River basin’s water and related land resources.

Other Events

* CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) is a Minnesota advocacy group that has been in existence about 20 years and is a 501 c 3 dedicated to monitoring and actively working to clean the Minnesota rivers.
* P. Ekstrom is a voting delegate to the Lake Michigan Regional Annual Meeting on October 21 – 22. 2022 in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Also attending will be L. Ekstrom, C. Franczyk and possibly C. Mahlum-Jenkins. Inquiry will be made whether the UMRR-ILO can have a table in the exhibit hall.

**2022-2023 Proposed Program Schedule:**

* December 5: C. Mahlum-Jenkins is contacting SMRT (Safeguarding the Mississippi River Together) representatives
* February 6: Agency – How to comment on Federal legislation \_ T. Prenosil is looking for speakers
* April 3: Ground Water/ Aquifer/Geology
* May 6 or June 3 Saturdays: Annual Meeting. Needs to be hybrid. Space must have space for at least 30 people and have internet access. The following people agreed to research the following locations: S. Wilson for Dubuque; P. Ekstrom and M. Miller for Davenport -Moline; T. Prenosil for Lansing; C. Mahlum-Jenkins for La Crosse. There is no line item in the budget for housing and travel expenses. The annual meeting has been budgeted for $1,000.
* June?: Planning Retreat

**How are we doing with our four state communications?**

Illinois: LWVIL has not had paid staff for a while and there are state board vacancies

Iowa: UMRR-ILO mentioned at LWVIA state board meetings and state presidents’ meetings. The website publishes UMRR-ILO events

Minnesota: Working with the Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Wisconsin: Continuing to monitor environmental issues and building relationships with advocacy groups.

**Succession:** We need to continue to search for people to fill UMRR-ILO advocacy needs as well as board positions. The board discussed the pros and cons of Drop Box versus Google Docs for storing documents and retrieving needed information. Consider using some of February’s meeting for training on Google Docs and Drop Box

**Other Business:** None

L. Ekstrom moved and C. Franczyk seconded that the meeting adjourn at 12:00 pm. Motion carried.

**Next meeting: December 5, 2022, at 10:00 am.**